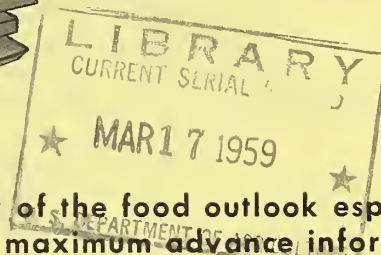


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FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

February 26, 1959

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MEAT.....Total meat consumption expected to reach 158 pounds per person this year, or about 7 pounds above 1958. Most of this increase will be in pork, with beef about the same as last year.

Beef.....As year began all beef classes on farms were higher than year earlier. Compared with January 1, 1958, inventory showed beef cows and beef calves gained 1 million, 300 thousand each; beef heifers and steers, 750 thousand. These numbers included 600 thousand more cattle and calves on feed.

Pork.....Hog slaughter will be greater than last year, due to 17% larger fall pig crop than year earlier, and 13% prospective increase in spring pig crop.

Lamb.....Sheep and lamb slaughter expected to rise this year, compared with 1958. This stems from January 1 inventory gain over year earlier, which included 600 thousand more ewes 1 year old and older; 400 thousand more stock lambs and 270 thousand more on feed.

POULTRY.....Broiler-fryer marketings in April expected to be around a tenth greater than last April's 120-1/2 million birds. Increased output expected to continue.

Turkeys.....Farm marketings now near seasonal low. February 1 storage holdings of 160 million pounds were 19 million below year-earlier record. If farmers' early year intentions materialize 1959 crop would be 5% greater than last year and set a record.

Eggs.....Production is increasing seasonally toward its spring peak and probably will continue above a year earlier throughout 1959.

DAIRY.....As year began milk production was about same as year ago. Cow numbers are unlikely to decline as much as in 1958, while output per cow probably will increase fully as much as in other recent years. Therefore, total milk output may exceed 1958 levels.

FRUITS:

Citrus.....Supplies of oranges and grapefruit over next 2 or 3 months will probably be somewhat larger than same period last year. Latest orange crop estimates--including tangerines--total 127 million boxes--14% above last year and 2% above average. Total grapefruit--estimated at 42-1/2 million boxes--now 7% above year earlier but 6% below average. Lemons--15 million boxes--11% under last season but 13% above average. Limes--placed at 180 thousand boxes--only slightly over half 1957-58 crop.

Processed.....Due to lateness of orange crop processing of frozen orange juice has fallen below year ago. But substantial increases expected in months ahead, with year's total probably a fifth above 1958 pack. Supplies of frozen fruits in storage February 1 totaled 442 million pounds--about equal year earlier--but 56 million pounds above average for that date.

Strawberries...Florida winter crop strawberries more than half again size of year earlier, but still less than 50% normal. First marketings expected start about mid-March.

Apples.....Stocks in storage February 1 stood at 28 million bushels--down 12 million from a month earlier. Average for date is 20 million bushels.

Pears.....Total fresh pear holdings February 1 totaled nearly 1-1/2 million bushels, or 132 thousand bushels above average.

Tree Nuts.....Supplies of walnuts at year's end totaled around 84 million pounds--in-the-shell basis--which was larger than for any recent year.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Most tender winter vegetable supplies will run much larger than last year's weather-damaged crops. Tomato output expected to be nearly 3 times larger than year earlier; green peppers more than 3 times greater; snap beans and corn about 4-1/2 times larger, escarole output probably considerably above year earlier. Among the hardy vegetables, cabbage and celery supplies may be a little larger, but cauliflower, carrot, artichoke and beet crops smaller. Early spring broccoli prospects about 7% above last year; cauliflower, up 26%; shallots up 12%.

Processed.....Slightly to moderately more processed vegetables available into mid-year, compared with year earlier. Canned supplies are slightly larger, while February 1 stocks of frozen items were about the same. Canned sweet corn, lima beans and asparagus are in smaller supply but supplies of snap beans, green peas, and sauerkraut are moderately higher. Stocks of tomatoes and most tomato products run considerably above last year. Frozen vegetables, estimated at 776 million pounds February 1, about equaled a year earlier, but were 109 million pounds above average for that date.

Potatoes.....Over next few months supplies will be larger than year earlier, due to big carryover from fall crop. The winter crop is smaller than in 1958. Sweetpotato supplies estimated slightly above last year.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program is supporting these forthcoming industry food campaigns:

HONEY FOR BREAKFAST WEEK..... March 29 - April 4

CEREAL AND MILK SPRING FESTIVAL..... April 1 - 30

JUNE DAIRY MONTH..... June 1 - 30